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\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

To : All Churches, County and City Officials to include fire departments, associations, commissioners and other Enforcement agencies

Re : Information concerning new construction, renovation and change of building use from one occupancy to another.

In an effort to assure the best quality of life safety for the citizens in this state we have enclosed some information that you may find helpful in developing and providing a safer community.

The Architectural Law was enacted by the legislature to ensure that structures that house the most people in this state are designed and constructed to be safe and provide adequate means of egress in the event of any emergency. This law should help prevent the types of terrible and tragic events where numbers of people lose their lives in preventable accidental fires.

For your personal review of the State Architectural Law you can either go to the State Board of Architects web site @<http://www.boa.alabama.gov/> Click FAQ link or to the **Code of Alabama** Title 34 Chapter 2 that gives a more descript picture of the actual law.

Summarized below are the requirements for a state licensed architect to be involved in the development of both new construction and renovation projects:

1. Any building(s) constructed over 2500 square feet.  
**Note:** Exception within the Architectural Law
2. Assembly occupancies, Schools, auditoriums or other buildings intended for the occupancy by any number of people.

If the desire is to occupy an existing structure for the purpose of Church or any other function it must be evaluated to assure that that structure is designed for that type use. This will help with the purchase and unwanted future interruptions that many places have experienced in the past.

The services of a registered architect shall be required on all buildings mentioned above and no official of this State or of any city, town or county herein charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to construction or alteration of buildings, shall accept or approve any plans or specifications that are not so prepared.

Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered professional engineers or their employees or subordinates under their supervision or control from performing architectural services incidental

to their engineering practice. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent registered architects or their employees or subordinates under their supervising control from performing engineering services incidental to their architectural practice.

No professional engineer shall practice architecture or use the designation "architect" or any terms derived therefrom unless that individual is registered pursuant to this chapter. No architect shall practice professional engineering or use the term "engineer" or any term derived therefrom unless that individual is also qualified and registered as an engineer.

(Acts 1979, No. 79-676, §3; Acts 1987, No. 87-544, §3.)

**If you have any questions please call this office @ 334-241-4166.**

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